LOS ALTOS HILLS CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXI April 1998

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May 2 & 3
Friends of the Library Booksale, Hillview Community Center, Sat. 10 A.M.- 3 P.M., Sun. Noon-3 P.M., Information: 948-4041

May 3, Sunday
Spring Country Fair, Hidden Villa, 11A.M. - 4 P.M., Parking at Foothill College, Information: 949-8653

May 16, Saturday
Annual Kiwanis Pet Parade, Downtown Los Altos, Main and State Streets, 10:00 A.M.. Information: 949-4600 ext. 3003

May 16 & 17
Sat & Sun
Los Altos Rotary Fine Art Show, Lincoln Park. 10A.M. - 5:30 P.M., Information: 562-1195

May 21, Thursday, 7 P.M.
Parent Education Workshop. "What Parents Want from Their Teens." Co-sponsored by Year of the Good Neighbor Committee, Egan Intermediate School, Information: 949-5501

May 31, Sunday
Town of Los Altos Hills Family Spring Picnic, Little League Fields, Purissima Road, 2-5P.M. Information: 941-7222.

June 7, Sunday
Artists' Reception, Bonnie Sorensen, Patricia Jojima and Pnina Klein, Town Hall Chambers, 26379 Fremont Road, 2-4 P.M., Information: 948-5840

SPRING FAMILY PICNIC

ALL RESIDENTS INVITED!

Do you like free ice cream, music, games? We all do, right? Join the Fun! You are invited to the 1998 Spring Family Picnic at the LAH Little League Field, Purissima Road on Sunday, May 31st, 2-5 P.M. Enjoy a day on the green. Bring your own blanket and picnic lunch. Soda, beer, wine, strawberries, and ice cream sundaes will be provided.

The Pathway Committee will sponsor a Pathway Walk departing from the playing field at 1 P.M. Enjoy the opportunity of meeting Town newcomers, your Town Council members, volunteers and staff.

Once every year Town residents join together at the Spring Greeting Party. The purpose of the event is to welcome newcomers, but it really is much more. The Town Council is available to discuss issues, and our volunteers present information regarding their committees (just in case you would like to join).

There will be:

- Pathway Walk
- Games for the kids
- Baseball (Residents versus Town staff teams)
- Entertainment: music, balloon-blower; clown
- Free refreshments, including beer & soft drinks
- Ice cream sundaes, fresh strawberries
- Drawing for Prizes

The police will answer questions regarding safety issues. The fire department will discuss fire safety and bring a fire truck for the kids to learn about the basics of fire fighting.

To participate in a prize drawing, preregistration is encouraged. So complete the form enclosed and return it to Town Hall. Deadline: May 15th. This will help us have an accurate head-count.

Spring Family Picnic —

Mark Your Calendar Sunday, May 31, 1998

FIRE PREVENTION

The Los Altos Hills County Fire District is working on a number of projects to reduce the dangers from brush fires. Heavy rains will produce a bumper crop of weeds and brush this Spring. We must all work to reduce this hazard before the dry summer months.

Fire District Projects Underway:

- Financing Yard waste drop off site two Saturdays a month at Foothill College. You will receive detailed information about this in the mail.
- Last year's pilot brush chipping program will be expanded to 400 homes located in a hazardous fire area of Town. Homes included in this program will receive a letter in April.
- Goats will be used in Byrne Preserve to reduce fire load. They should start in late May.
- The District is paying for improvements to a dozen emergency access roads in Town to improve their usability.
- A study is underway to identify locations where additional fire hydrants are needed.
- A new specially designed fire engine for putting out grass and brush fires will arrive this Spring.
- A weather station is operational that will provide data on fire danger and lead to increased on-duty firemen during such periods.

LAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

WOLFGANG PANOFSKY TO SPEAK

SUNDAY, MAY 10TH
TOWN HALL AT 3:00 P.M.
TOWN RESIDENT WOLFGANG PANOFSKY, PH.D., DIRECTOR EMERITUS OF THE STANFORD LINEAR ACCELERATOR CENTER (SLAC).
TOPIC: HISTORY OF SLAC

All are welcome and refreshments will be served. For information on membership in the Historical Society please contact Linda Swan at 948-1238 or Wayne Johnson at 948-3973.

City Manager's Report

The City Manager provides monthly updates to the Council. In an effort to keep residents informed on the current issues in the Town, we shall present excerpts from his report. Please let us know if you find this information helpful. Thank you. Ed.

El Niño Storm Damage

The bay area experienced heavy rains in the month of February. These early storms caused Adobe Creek, Matadero Creek and Barron Creek to overflow their banks onto roadways and also caused many landslides and smaller "sloughs" around Town. The Town's maintenance crew went on 24-hour duty during the heavy storms and were able to keep all of the Town's streets passable and the storm drain systems functioning. With the help of outside contractors, most of the slides were cleaned up in two to three days. Our public works crew should be commended for their hard work in bringing the Town through these storms as well as for their preparations throughout the year that have helped minimize problems. The major continuing concerns are the landslide on La Cresta Drive just south of Viscaino Road, the landslide in the median of Edgerton Road, and the very slow developing land slippage at Natoma Road just west of Lucero Lane. The Town Geologist has looked at the 3 locations and we are monitoring them. At the 2 landslides, we are keeping 1 lane of traffic open and upon the recommendation of the Town Geologist we are waiting for dry weather before starting any repairs. These 2 landslides are the rotational types and removal of the material at the toe of the slides may make the situation worse. The very slow slippage on Natoma Road is occurring about 200-ft uphill from the previous slide. The Town Geologist advises that the slippage will continue to occur very slowly for the next several months. We will close Natoma Road if the road surface becomes unsafe. A contingency plan is in place if it becomes necessary to close Natoma Road. I have submitted the paperwork to FEMA and the State OES to obtain reimbursement for our contract debris removal efforts and our emergency response overtime costs.

Solid Waste

The 1996 Annual Report on solid waste was submitted to the California Environmental Protection Agency, Integrated Waste Management Board on February 13, 1998. The Town's diversion rate is 47.9%, 22.9% above the goal of 25% but not quite up to the year 2000 goal of 50%.

Housing Element

The City Council considered the Draft Housing Element at a public hearing on February 18th. At that meeting, some changes were made to the proposed secondary unit programs, and staff was directed to revise the Housing Element accordingly. A resolution will be prepared for the Council's March 18th meeting, adopting the Housing Element and the Negative Declaration. Upon adoption, the plan will be sent to the State's Housing and Community Development Department, who will either certify it or will indicate how it remains out of compliance with State law.

General Plan Update

On February 18th, Chris Clark of Crawford, Multari, & Clark, (a consultant hired to help us rewrite our General Plan), presented an outline and overview of the Circulation Element of the General Plan to the City Council.

Parcel Database

Planning staff continues to use the Town's new parcel database as projects come through for review. The parcel database contains about 60 fields of information on most parcels in Town and is updated as new information is received.

Audit of Building Department

City staff is reviewing the draft report of an audit of our building department. The report is an analysis of the Building Department, with comparisons to industry expectations and actual experiences of similar size cities. Upon finalizing the report, staff will distribute it to the Council for review and discussion and will use it as input to the 1998-99 budget.

Project Reviews

The following major project applications are pending or have been recently approved: Conditional Use Permit- 26790 Arastradero Road - proposed major additions to existing Congregation Beth Am facilities, including new multipurpose building, expansions of existing office and classroom space, and additional parking.

Quarry Hills Subdivision

The improvement plans for this subdivision are within days of being signed off and the revised CC&R's have just been resubmitted to our City Attorney for review. Depending on the outcome of the map check and CC&R review, the tract map may be ready to be presented to the Council for acceptance on the April 1 or April 15 meeting. Construction in the subdivision could then begin as soon as the grading moratorium is lifted.

Montessori School at Morgan Manor

Staff has still not had any firm response to our inquiry of early January as to whether the School intends to move forward with the project or to withdraw the application. If staff does not hear from the school by the end of March, we will prepare a letter notifying them that the Town considers the project withdrawn.

New Residences

11-applications pending for new residences at: 14470 DeBell Road, 12010 Elsie Way, 25599 Fernhill Drive, 25518 Hidden Springs Lane, 24055 Jabil Lane, 28500 Matadero Creek Lane, 12580 Miraloma Way, 27371 Moody Road, 24004 Oak Knoll Circle, 24700 Olive Tree Court, and 12238 Via Arline; and 7 major addition/remodel projects. (Note: Nearby residents within 500 feet will receive notification of hearings on applications.)

--- Jeff Peterson, City Manager

Planning Department Update

Update of Circulation Element of General Plan

The Town has initiated an update of its Circulation Element of the General Plan. The Circulation Element outlines the Town's policies regarding roadway and right-of-way requirements, and must be consistent with Town policies regarding pathways and bike routes as well. The element has not been updated since 1975. The revision will also incorporate the existing Scenic Highways Element of the General Plan.

Key issues which are likely to be addressed by the Circulation Element include: maintenance and dedication of private roadways; emergency access routes; right-of-way widths; standards for drainage; the aesthetic design of roadways; road capacities and traffic levels; regional traffic problems; and coordination with the Town's Pathways Element and the pathway network.

A committee of representatives from the City Council, Planning Commission, and Town committees has been formed to advise staff and the Town's planning consultant regarding issues and policies for review. Public hearings will be scheduled before the Planning Commission and City Council to consider the updated element, and public notice will be provided to residents as the process moves along. Completion of the update is tentatively scheduled for July of 1998.

If you have any questions regarding the update of the Circulation Element, please contact Curtis Williams, the Town's Planning Director, at 941-7222.

In Memoriam - Mary Stutz

We note with great sadness the loss of Mary Stutz, a valuable, beloved, vital member of our community. Mary died last December after a long illness. She had been actively serving our town, not only during her illness, but from the time she and her husband, Bob, moved here 30 years ago. It was Mary and Artemis Ginzton who established the pathway system in Los Altos Hills in order to preserve all the horse trails as large tracts of land were developed. She served on the pathway committee until 1988 when she joined the planning commission where she served until her death. She was invaluable in both jobs because she combined a fierce love of Los Altos Hills and its goals with an encyclopedic knowledge of its history, and ordinances. Everyone in our community has benefited from her long and faithful service.

To honor Mary's memory the City Council will place a bench in the Juan Prado Mesa Preserve and will name that walk the Mary Stutz Trail. Thank you, Mary, we all miss you.

Ask the Staff:

"What Are The Requirements for Neighborly Construction?"

When the Town issues permits for new construction, several provisions are made to protect adjacent residents from the impacts of noise, construction parking, site debris, roadway damage, and other construction-related activities. The following are a few of the Town's requirements intended to encourage neighbor-friendly construction:

- Construction hours are limited by ordinance from 8:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. on Mondays through Fridays. Construction is allowed from 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. on Saturdays, but no grading or other heavy equipment may be used. Construction is prohibited on Sundays and holidays, except for homeowners using domestic power tools.

- A "construction operation plan" is required from each applicant for any major addition or new residence. This plan is attached to the building plans and shows areas on the site designated for parking of construction vehicles, equipment storage, debris box (dumpster), and portable toilet. In reviewing the plans, the Town staff attempts to eliminate parking on streets and pathways and to confine impacts to the site as much as possible.

- A debris box is required for all projects of significant size. All on-site trash and other waste should be disposed of in the debris box at the end of each day or should be hauled off the site.

- Engineering staff requires that, for major projects, photos or other documentation be provided showing the condition of adjacent roadways and/or pathways prior to construction. Upon completion of the project, the applicant is then required to repair any identified damage to the road or path so that it is in generally the same condition as prior to construction.

The Town recognizes that construction is likely to inconvenience neighbors to some extent, but hopes to minimize the impacts during the construction period. If you have concerns about a project near you, it would be appropriate first to contact the contractor and/or owners, as they may be unaware of the problem and the owners hopefully will want to establish good relations with their new neighbors. As the Town cannot legislate good neighbors, however, if you continue to experience problems in any of the above areas, please contact the Building or Planning departments of the Town at 941-7222.

Statement of Purpose

To communicate Los Altos Hills current issues, services, and activities to the residents of the Town. To facilitate, encourage and improve interaction between the residents and Town government.
The next Newsletter will be published in August.
Deadline for the next issue is June 30, 1998.
Internet Address: www.losaltosonline.com/lah

About Our Publication
The Town Newsletter is published with assistance from our Town Volunteer Committees.
Editor: Roger W. Burnell
Associate Editor: Dorothy Duffy Price

Los Altos Hills City Council
• Toni Casey, Mayor • Bob Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem
• Elayne Dauber • Bill Siegel • Sid Hubbard

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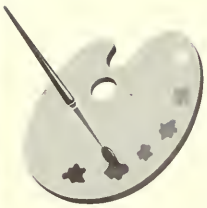


Art Exhibits Town Hall Chambers

Bonnie Epstein and **Carole Brown**, local artists from Los Altos Hills will share exhibit space at Town Hall. Bonnie Epstein's Spring flower watercolors and Carole Brown's ceramics, jewelry, and paintings will be on exhibit from March 22 – May 29, 1998. Town Hall Chamber Hours: Monday Friday 1 P.M. - 5 P.M. Residents are invited.

Profiles:

Bonnie Epstein is a watercolorist who has had many one-woman shows. She is among five honored at a major watercolor show in 1995 at the Pacific Art League of Palo Alto, where she has been studying for three years.

Carole Brown's fine arts education began with sculpture and then expanded to include drawing, watercolor oils painting, ceramics and jewelry.

Future Schedule

Bonnie Sorensen, Patricia Jojima & Pnina Klein
June 7 – August 28, 1998
Town Hall Reception: June 7, 1998; 2-4 P.M.

Meet the New Town Hall Staff

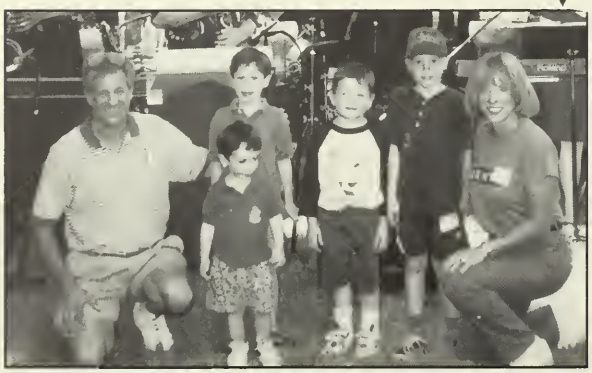
Our newest employee, Beth Ebben, Office Manager/Accountant is assisting our Finance Director in implementation of the new financial accounting system that has improved financial efficiency. Beth says, "I really appreciate working at Town Hall and enjoy my co-workers."

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Two appointments will be made to the Planning Commission in June for 4-year terms that commence on July 1, 1998. There are presently vacancies on the following Town Standing Committees: Community Relations, Environmental Design & Protection, Pathways, Recreation & Parks, Safety and Technology Improvement. The position of Youth Commissioner is also vacant. The Town needs volunteers to serve as Neighborhood Coordinators and Block Captains for the Town's Emergency Program. Contact City Clerk, Pat Dowd at 650/941-7222.

Spring Family Picnic '98 Join the Fun! Sunday, May 31st

See Article on Page 1



Scene from 1997 Spring Greeting at Town Hall. ***Pictured L. to R.:*** *Community Relations Committee Chairman, Roger Burnell, Janssen - Session's family boys & Event Chairman, Rae Richter in front of the String of Pearls Band.*

Town of Los Altos Hills
26379 Fremont Road
Los Altos Hills, California 94022

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CHANGES IN SOLID WASTE SERVICE

At their March 4, 1998 meeting, the City Council approved an extension of the franchise agreement with the Los Altos Garbage Company (LAGCo) for five years. The new agreement will become effective in phases starting on April 1, 1998.

MORE RECYCLING

The new franchise agreement provides for several enhancements in service for Los Altos Hills residents with no increase in rates. The additional services include backyard collection of mixed paper, #2 plastics, cardboard and yard waste from each residence. Mixed paper and cardboard collection will begin on or before July 1, 1998. LAGCo will distribute an 18-gallon container for collection of mixed paper to each residence; similar to the one you use for glass and aluminum recyclables. Cardboard is considered a mixed paper and will also be collected in this container. In the interim, LAGCo will place a debris box in the Little League parking lot on Purissima Road for residents to dispose of cardboard. This box is not intended for other mixed paper. #2 plastics may be commingled and collected from the same container in which you place your glass and aluminum. You may start placing your #2 plastics in this container anytime after April 1st.

YARD WASTE

On or before May 1st backyard collection of yard waste will begin. Yard waste may be placed in containers or bundles for collection every other week from the same location that your garbage and recycling is now collected. For the current monthly rate that you pay, yard waste may be placed in up to 6-32 gallon garbage cans or equivalent sized bundles, or 2-96 gallon toters on wheels. The toters will be available for purchase from LAGCo for a cost of $60 per toter. Collection of additional yard waste from your backyard is available for an additional fee. LAGCo will be mailing notices to all residents with information such as collection schedules, fees for additional service and methods of payment for purchasing the toters.

PURISSIMA ROAD DROP-OFF YARD CLOSES

With the implementation of backyard yard waste collection, the yard waste drop-off center on Purissima Road will close on April 15th. This property will be returned to use by the Public Works Department. Residents who accumulate more yard waste than can be disposed of through the backyard program may take advantage of the Los Altos Hills County Fire Districts program for disposal of brush and yard waste. Their program is intended to reduce fuel loading in the district and to provide for two drop-off days per month on Saturdays at the Foothill College parking lot. Additional information has been mailed to residents in the district regarding this program.

COMPOST AND ADDITIONAL LARGE LOADS OF YARD WASTE

LAGCo will begin routine delivery of compost from Zanker Road to the Town for use by residents. The Town is also working with the Zanker Road compost facility to provide an opportunity for residents to dispose of large loads of yard waste.

The Town is currently working out the details of these programs. Residents will be notified of the details of these programs at a later date.

CLEANUP DAYS REVISED

The Town cleanup days have been revised to allow residents the disposal of more types of materials, and to provide for the recycling of a greater percentage of the materials. The number of drop-off days has been reduced from 4 per year to 3 per year, which adds one more month in between cleanup events.

The Town hopes that you will find the new solid waste programs to be convenient which will help promote a greater amount of recycling. If you have any questions regarding the new services that will be provided by LAGCo, please call their customer service department at (650) 961-8040.

TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

Join the Fun!

Spring Family Picnic'98

TIME OF EVENT Pathway Walk: 1-2 P.M.
Picnic Time: 2-5 P.M.

DATE OF EVENT SUNDAY, MAY 31, 1998

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS FOR A DAY ON THE GREEN. BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC, BLANKET AND ENJOY GAMES, BASEBALL, ENTERTAINMENT, & GUIDED PATHWAY WALK. FREE SODAS, BEER, WINE & MAKE YOUR OWN ICE CREAM SUNDAES. PRE-REGISTER FOR PRIZE DRAWINGS.

LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD
PURISSIMA ROAD
INFORMATION: 650/941-7222

TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
SPRING FAMILY PICNIC 1998

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

RESIDENT FAMILY NAME _____

ADDRESS_____TEL._____

HOW MANY IN YOUR FAMILY WILL ATTEND THE SPRING FAMILY PICNIC?_____

PRIZE DRAWING - WINNERS MUST BE PRESENT
Gift Certificates & Awards

- FAX/ Send Form to Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road
- Los Altos Hills, CA 94022
- Tel 650/941-7222
- FAX 650/941-3160